

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School
160 Foster Center Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, April 24, 2012
Executive Session – 7:30pm
Open Session – 8:00pm

1. Convene Meeting

At 7:33 pm, Chair, Kathleen Swanson, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order.

a. Roll Call

Present were Chair, Kathleen Swanson, Vice-Chair, Shelley Pezza, member, Patricia Fountain, Superintendent/Principal, Davida Irving, and FSC Secretary, Helena McCullough.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation

a. (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Arbitration – Educational Support Personnel

Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

3. Reconvene Open Session

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC reconvened to Open Session at 7:39 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC recessed until 8:00 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Staff and/or Student Recognition

Dr. Irving recognized two students from Mrs. Giacobone's class for their participation and awards for the "Scituate Reservoir Poster Contest". Grace Dandeneau earned Honorable Mention and Julie Vieira earned Grand Prize.

Dr. Irving recognized Rebecca Payette, First Grade Teacher with Elementary and Special Education Certification, for her dedication to the students of Paine School. She has

coordinated the Courtyard for the past six years, headed up Robotics, and volunteers as the coordinator for Daffodil Days with the American Cancer Society.

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC requested the Superintendent to write a letter of the highest recognition for Mrs. Payette and to be placed in her personnel file. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

6. **Building Use Requests** – there were no requests.

7. **Approval of Minutes** –

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to approve the minutes of Executive Session of March 27, 2012. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to approve the Open Session Minutes of March 27, 2012. Discussion followed. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to amend the motion that on six approval of minutes the approval of the previous month's Executive Session Mrs. Fountain asked that it be reflected in these minutes verbatim her reason for voting no. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0. Motion passed on the original motion. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

8. **Approval of Warrants**

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$132,979.16 from run #17. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

- a. *Business Manager's Report* – Malcolm Moore, Business Manager, reported to the FSC and reviewed the expense report.

9. **Old Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. *Policy #5141.5 Protocol for Latex Sensitivity/Allergy – second reading*

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC accepted the seconded reading of Policy #5141.5 – Protocol for Latex Sensitivity/Allergy. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- b. *Capital Project – Heating Pipe Repair/Replacement*

Dr. Irving informed the FSC that she approached the Foster Town Council concerning the need for Capital Funds to be used for the repair of old corroded leaking pipes that are underground and have been there since the school was built.

The Town Council voted to put the cost of \$39,000 into the Capital Budget for 2012-2013 but this item on the Capital Budget will still need to be voted on at the annual Foster Financial Town Meeting on May 1, 2012.

c. 2012-2013 Budget

Dr. Irving notified the FSC, that she would like to have the most recent revision of the budget for tax payers at the Financial Town Meeting. The line items give a more realistic version but the bottom line remains the same. Discussion followed.

Ms. Pezza made a motion to approve the budget presented tonight subject to present at the Foster Financial Town Meeting, subject to approval of legalities by the Town Solicitor and the School Committee Attorney and the Town Council and both have to agree completely that this is not a violation of the Town Charter or any legal issues. Mrs. Swanson seconded. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – abstained and verbatim for the record: She is abstaining because of a concern for violation of the Town Charter. Mrs. Swanson said that was addressed in the motion. Mrs. Fountain repeated her abstention is because of a concern for violation of the Town Charter. Mrs. Swanson said officially for the record that we addressed that concern in our motion by asking both the Town Solicitor and our School Committee Counsel confirm that this is completely legal and not in violation of the Town Charter prior to that happening. Mrs. Fountain wanted to say that she would like that opinion prior to a vote.

10. New Business (for discussion/action)

a. Arbitration – Educational Support Personnel

Mrs. Swanson said there was nothing to report.

b. Fuel Oil

Mr. McGovern, Head of Maintenance, reported that Foster School Department ‘piggy backs’ off Gloucester School Department and Foster-Glocester Regional School Department, paying .05 more per gallon off the dock price. In relation to more fuel oil being used brought the FSC to discuss continuous repairs to the existing pumps and the invoice descriptions. Mr. McGovern will request more information be included on the invoices for billing i.e., serial number of the pump, etc. No vote was taken.

c. Audit Review

Malcolm Moore, Business Manager, reviewed the Audit with the FSC.

d. 2012-2013 School Calendar

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to accept the calendar for the 2012-2013 school year. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

The FSC also approved a letter of accommodation for the Administrative Secretary on a recommendation from the Superintendent on a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

e. Financial Town Meeting

FSC discussed who would be attending and making a presentation.

11. Communication/Reports

a. Correspondence

The Superintendent read a letter from the Foster Teachers' Association (attached to these Minutes) which addressed the NECAP results in October. The Chair thanked the Superintendent for reading their well thought out letter – FSC also acknowledged the letter. Dr. Irving stated that it was the teachers and the students who achieved the success on the NECAPS together. The NECAP scores received back for 2011 do not reflect the work that Dr. Bowen has started this year. Dr. Irving informed the FSC of two letters from two teachers (Librarian and Physical Education Teachers) who withdrew their appeals for being reduced from 5/5 to 4/5 for 2012-2013. Dr. Irving relayed the four resolutions received from the Barrington Schools. Discussion followed.

b. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Irving reported that Science NECAPS will be held during the month of May for fourth grade.

Dr. Irving informed the FSC that teachers have been observing several full-day Kindergarten programs in other districts in RI and CT.

Dr. Irving reported that several families are interested in pre-school; Dr. Irving has been working with Lori Greenleaf, head of FELT, who is very supportive of a pre-school program and Dr. Irving is also working with Michelle Palmaro from RIDE; Ms. Palmaro is seeking grant money in support of the pre-school through possible funds from Race to the Top; a presentation is planned for May for parents; it would be a zero percent increase to next year's budget.

She also reported that the Technology Grant will be uploaded on Thursday before 4:00 pm. Jessica Barry, a parent and Grant writer, is working on the grant and the grant award is quite substantial being around \$470,000 to be awarded to one school.

c. Future Agenda Items

Full Day Kindergarten & Pre-School
Charter School

Fuel Oil – gallons/usage for last three years

Resolutions – Lay-off Notification / School Committees & Superintendents

Bullying Policy – update
Building & Grounds Report
Technology Grant - Update

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC adjourned at 10:25 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee